

RESOLUTION NO. 20120823-072

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the value and contribution our City's Park System makes to our shared quality of life by providing healthy outdoor recreation and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, our Park System provides a connection to our natural environment, promotes public health and significantly contributes to the visual character of our City; and

WHEREAS, the preservation, enhancement, and expansion of our Park System is an important aspect that contributes toward meeting our goal to be the most livable City in the country; and

WHEREAS, increasing demands on our Park System by growing populations and the parks' popularity as venues for events, particularly at Auditorium Shores and Zilker Park, are creating conflicts with scheduling and are stressing the parks' vitality and surrounding infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, in 1989 the Austin City Council created a Park Land Policy Committee to discuss the need for a City events policy for City Parks; and

WHEREAS, in July 1998 the Parks and Recreation Board adopted a Parks and Recreation Department Special Events Policy establishing an annual event limit for City of Austin Parks, which policy was administratively updated in 2007; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City Manager is directed to work with stakeholders to conduct a comprehensive analysis of impacts from events at Auditorium Shores and Zilker Park, and provide recommendations on a balanced solution that enhances public access and enjoyment of Austin's Public Park System; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the stakeholders shall consist of representatives from the Parks and Recreation Board, the Waterfront Planning Advisory Board, the Urban Transportation Commission, the Long Center, the Palmer Event Center, park advocates, adjacent neighborhoods, impacted venue operators, venue users and businesses, and representative(s) from the original Town Lake Park Stakeholders group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the analysis should include incorporation of the Parks and Recreation Department's Special Events Policy and the Street Event Ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the analysis shall also include an assessment of impacts that limitations on the use of Auditorium Shores and Zilker Park may have on other parks, such as Fiesta Gardens and Festival Beach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the comprehensive analysis will address:

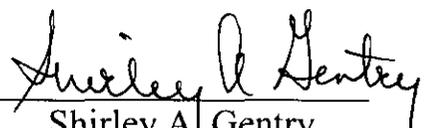
- impacts of increasing the number and size of events on the parklands and a determination on whether any adjustment to the number of events is appropriate;
- park event scheduling, coordination, and assessment of capacities, event related fees and policies, and impacts to surrounding neighborhoods, businesses and infrastructure;
- identification of opportunities for new venues to accommodate events, including an assessment of their carrying capacities and impacts to surrounding neighborhoods, businesses and infrastructure;
- comprehensive traffic and parking studies;
- identification of appropriate mechanisms to ensure that fees by all rental groups of our city parks are collected and used for the maintenance and repairs for any post-event issues;
- a review of the existing Park Rental policies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager is directed to bring the recommendations back to City Council for approval by March 1, 2013.

ADOPTED: August 23, 2012

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk